

THE TRUE
NARRATIVE
OF THE
PROCEEDINGS
AT
The Sessions-House
IN THE
OLD-BAYLY.

Which began on *Thursday* the 15th of this Instant *January* 1679. and Ended on *Fryday* the 16th.

Giving an Account of most of the Remarkable Trials there, viz. for Murder, Felonies and Burglaries, &c. with a particular Relation of their Names, and the places of their Committing their Facts, with the number of those Condemned to dye, Burnt in the hand, Transported and to be whipt.

Printed. 17th Jan. 1679.

THe first was *Thomas Gold*, who was Indicted, for that he in the Company of three more, did on the 17th of *December* last, break into the Dwelling-house of one *Katherine Harris*, in the Parish of *Hornsey*, in the County of *Middlesex*, from whence, after they had secured her, by almost smothering her and her Children with the Bed-clothes, they went into the next Chamber, and bound her Servant-Maid, who whilst they were effecting of it, took by the light of their Candle, particular notice of the now Prisoner, by reason of a blow on his Nose, and a blemish in his Eye. After they had by this meant secured all pursuit, they Ransacked the House, and carried away 14 Pewter Dishes, 5 or 6 Plates, fourty shillings in Money, Table-Linnen, Childbed-Linnen, and other Cloathes to a considerable value rub'd off, after upon another exploit, the said *Gold* being Committed to *New-Prison*, the Prosecutor having notice of such a parties being there, brought her Maid to see if she knew him, who without pausing, singled him from amongst a dozen Prisoners, whereupon he was sent to *Newgate*. Upon his Trial he pleaded ignorance, and endevoured to prove his place of residence that Night, but could not, therefore upon a full Evidence, he was brought in Guilty of Felony and Burglary.

Andrian Seroop was Indicted for committing Murther on the Body of *William Best*, at a certain Tavern in *Kings-street Westminster*, the circumstances as they were sworn in Court, are as follows, that the deceased and the Prisoner being at the said Tavern in the Evening, some violent Fudes arose between them, whereupon they both went out, which the rest of the Company observing, followed them, the better to prevent and hinder them from injuring each other, so

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that by the mediation of some Gentlemen, they seemingly were pacified, and did return to the same place, where the Prisoner acknowledged his sorrow for some unadvised words he had thrown out in Passion, but not having long renewed that Friendship, a greater contest arose, upon which the deceased threw two several Tankards at the Prisoner, and with the latter hit him on the head; whereupon in great disgust he leaves the Room, but the deceased following him, he drew his Sword, and in the dark run him in under the left Pap, so that it entering about five inches, it proved mortal, yet after that the Prisoner being disarmed by the Company to part the Fray, caught the deceased by the Nose with his Teeth; all which was acted on the second of December, yet *Best* deceased not till about five weeks after, therefore no malice being proved, it was found Manflaughter.

Charles King a Taylor, was Indicted for Robbing a Servant-maid in *Tort buildings*, in the Strand, about seven of the Clock in the Evening, snatching a bundle from under her Arm, containing two Aprons and a Gown, whereupon, the crying out, he betook himself to flight, yet not acquainted with the Streets, he was so closely pursued by two Porters, that he was taken; but having drop'd the Goods, he in Court denied that ever he had them; but the Maid swearing positively, he was notwithstanding found guilty of the Robbery.

Elizabeth Spark, alias *Souch*, and *William Abbot* were indicted the former being a notorious pickpocket, was as she pretended picked up in *Cornhil*, by one *Nichols* a Butcher, who would needs fasten a Glass of Wine upon her, so that they repairing to a Tavern, whilst he was searching her Placket, took the opportunity of searching his pocket, and drew thence for her own proper Use, about 14 or 15 Shillings, and then making an excuse to go down stairs, sheard off; at which the Cully having some mistrust, all was not as it should be searching his Pockets, found his loss; and runs down stairs, to enquire after his departed new acquaintance, but she had left him to bewail his folly; yet whilst he was in pursuit of her, she called him back, and was again perhaps for more; but contrary to her expectation, was seized by the Master of the House, upon which *Abbot* lying perdue, endeavoured to rescue her, and fell upon the said *Nichols*, who was then returned from the pursuit. She pleaded in Court, that he gave it her for to debauch her, yet she being an antient Pickpocket, was brought in Guilty, but *Abbot* not being in her Company when the Fact was committed, could not be found Guilty.

William Hunt, of *St. Martins in the Fields*, was Indicted for being Actually married to two several Wives, to which Indictment he pleaded Guilty, without any further examination of Witnesses or particulars whatsoever.

Thomas Castilian, of *St. Martins in the Fields* having impeached one *Henry Jones* of a Felony and Burglary, for breaking open with a pair of Tongs, the Chamber-door of one *Luke Hemings*, after an entrance at the outward Window, whereupon they were severally Indicted, by reason the former should give Evidence against the latter, yet after he had confessed himself Guilty of the Felony, and Burglary, and that he had taken some handfuls of monies out of a broken Drawer; his Arguments against his pretended accomplice, were so simple and ineffectual, that the Court could not be induced to credit him, by reason of his often trapping himself, and he being but a Youth of about fifteen or sixteen years of Age, so that *Jones* was cleared, and the said *Castilian* found Guilty according to his own Confession for Felony and Burglary.

Roger Swiny was Indicted for the Murther of one *Richard Jones* a Bailiff's follower, in *Lincolns-Inn-Fields*, the circumstance in nature thus, five or six Bailiffs and their followers, waiting to Arrest one *Harris* for a debt of sixty pounds; due from him to one *Timothy Pride*, the which he having notice of sent for the Prisoner and his Brother to Guard him out about some important affair, and they accordingly came; whereupon they three crossing the Rails, went on till they came into the little Fields, the Bailiffs still following them to *Lincolns-Inn* back Gate, made a stand, and as the Bailiffs swore, they called to them; whereupon they coming up, the Prisoner and his two Companions drew their Swords and in manfully defending of themselves, the aforesaid *Richard Jones* received a wound on his Brest five inches deep, of which he fell down and died; yet notwithstanding he received his Death's wound by the Brother of the Prisoner, the Prisoner as an accomplice was found Guilty of the Murther and Fellony.

Walter Goff was Indicted for Felloniously taking away a Silver Tankard, three Gold Rings, several pieces of Broad Gold, with other Goods and Chattels, to a considerable vallue, out of the House of *Thomas Seymore* of *White-Chapelle*; at *Christmas* last, the said *Goff* entering at the Seller Dore, which accidentally was left open, and going up Stairs took away the Goods, and returned undiscovered; but being suspected, soon after was taken, and did in part confess the Robbery; yet at his Tryal stoutly denied the whole circumstance, notwithstanding which, the Evidence being plain and strong against him, and some of the Goods found where he had disposed of them, he was found Guilty of the Fellony.

William Barrel a Soldier was Indicted for Felloniously taking away a piece of twelvepenny Ribon, vallued at tenn shillings; from a Millener in the Exchange; upon which, being immediately apprehended, he was committed to Prison; upon his Trial the Witness swore against him directly, that he took it, and putting it into his Pocket offered to depart; but being stayed, he would have made an Agreement, and compounded ere it came to a farther dispute; and on his Trial pleaded that he had given her satisfaction, but not being able to prove it, it was looked upon as a trick, to invalidate the Credit of the Witness, but that proved ineffectual, and he was brought in Guilty of the Fellony.

Roger Benison was likewise Indicted for Fellony, the Warehouse of *Anthony Harrison* being broke open, about a fortnight before *Christmas*, and from thence stolen one hundred Yards of died Bays, and about fifty yards of Flannel, the which upon search was found in the custody of the Prisoner, to which he pleaded that he had bought them long before the Robbery was committed, but could bring no proof thereof, yet notwithstanding, the Witnesses were not of force sufficient to prove he stole them, wherefore he being indicted as the principle and not as an Accessary, the Jury brought him in not Guilty, and referred it to another indictment next Sessions.

Thomas Pettiford was indicted by one *Wallis*, a Smith in *Water Lane*, upon a bare suspicion of his being accessary to the loss of a Silver Tankard; vallued at about five pound, which he nor the Gentleman in his Company neither handled nor saw, yet notwithstanding the Smith and all his Family swore so resolutely, the Indictment was thought to be maliciously laid to blast his Reputation, and the Jury being so discreet as to diserne it, brought the Gentleman in not Guilty.

Peter Richardson was Indicted and Arraigned, for that he the said *Richardson*, in the company of three more did Felloniously take and bear away, after having forced and broken open the Chamber-door of *Mark Trout* of *New-Inn*, in the Parish of St.

Clements

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Clements-Deans, a Hair-cambler Cloak, one beaver Hat, forty-six Guinies six broad Pieces, a Silver-hilted Sword, and a bag of halt Crowns and Five-shilling Pieces, in all, to the value of a hundred and ten Pounds; next day the noise of the Robbery spreading, the said *Richardson*, who before was very bare of money, being observed at the Bull over against the said *Inn*, to pull out whole handfuls of Gold and Silver, thought fit to question him how he came by it, and being apprehended he confessed the manner and nature of the Robbery, as also where the Key of the Iron Chest, in which the moneys had been in, was thrown by his Confederates, the which accordingly was found, but in Court he denied what ever former he had declared, and said that he had receiv'd what moneys he had of one *Russel*: but he not being to be produced, his Confession sworn to, he was convicted of Felony and Burglary.

John Maccarty also was Indicted for Fellonously taking out of a Milliners Shop, in *St. Martins-lane* about eighteen or twenty yards of Ribbon, the manner as followeth, he and his Accomplice going to the said Shop, pretended to buy of several sorts; but watching an opportunity soon conveyed away the afore mentioned parcel, the Prisoner being taxed, pretended the other had taken it away, and that he knew him not, nor ne'r had seen him till that time, but he having been an old offender, and burnt in the Hand, his slight excuses would not in the least prevail, but as a Confederate he was found guilty of the Felony.

Richard Templeman was Indicted for stealing a Game-cock, valued at five shillings, and a Hen valued at eighteen pence from *Deborah Edwards*, to which Indictment he pleaded not guilty, but the Witnesses prov'd that he had stolen and feloniously taken them out of her Hen-roost, and after upon search the said Cock was found in his possession, but he pleaded he bought it of a Market-woman, but could not produce the Woman nor any Witnesses thereof, so that he was found guilty of the Felony to the value of ten pence. *Ann Drate* was likewise found guilty for feloniously stealing several parcels of Stockings.

William Howly likewise was found guilty to the value of four pence, for stealing a Chamber-pot in *Finch-lane*: as also *William Woodward*, *Ann Rye*, &c.

There were In all eight burnt in the Hand, 7 Condemn'd, viz. *John Gold*, *Elizabeth Zouch*, *Charles King*, *Thomas Castilian*, *Roger Swiny*, *Peter Richardson*, and *John Maccarty* &c. and two to be whipt: and so the Sessions did conclude for the Fellons, the Trials of the Jesuits being to begin on Saturday the 17th.

